



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona State Office
222 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
www.az.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To
6500/6700 (AZ932) P

March 24, 2005

EMS TRANSMISSION: 03/24/05
Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-2005-023
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: All Field Offices

From: Deputy State Director, Resources Division

Subject: Wildlife Water Development/Maintenance Coordination with Arizona Game and Fish Department

DD: 06/01/2005

Purpose: The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum is to outline a process of coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) as they undertake an effort to upgrade/reconstruct many of the wildlife water collection devices (catchments) located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands.

Background: Since constructing the first catchments in the 1940s, hundreds have been built on public lands. During this time, water development design, site selection, materials, and construction methods have continued to evolve, resulting in an array of catchment types, some functioning well, others not, but all contributing to a growing maintenance load. The AGFD is committed to achieve a financially sustainable water development program based on sound biological assessments, appropriate design, construction and material applications, and efficient resource allocation. As existing catchments are upgraded the following objectives are incorporated into the design:

- A long lifespan (40-50 years for storage and collection systems, 25 years for drinking troughs).
- Standardized materials applied in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- Year-round, acceptable water quality for wildlife use.
- Maximized passive design elements.
- No supplemental water hauling required, except in rare of exceptional circumstances.
- Minimal visual impacts and blends in with the surrounding landscape.
- Construction details reflect efficiencies in both cost and time required.
- Minimal routine maintenance required.

- Accessible to and used by target species and excludes undesirable/feral species to the greatest extent possible.
- Minimized risk of animal entrapment and mortality.

These standards will go a long way toward meeting BLM goals for resource management such as; less wilderness intrusion, less visual contrast, less maintenance, and healthier wildlife.

A major bottleneck to getting catchments upgraded is the time it takes to get the NEPA documentation completed. This is usually the BLM's responsibility, although steps have been taken recently by the AGFD to contract some of this work. A coordination meeting was held with AGFD on January 7, 2005, with the purpose of laying out a process for prioritizing catchment maintenance/reconstruction and placing it on a schedule for completion. An ongoing (cyclic) schedule was developed which is described below.

Policy/Action: The following schedule will be used to coordinate and implement project planning for cooperative wildlife water development or maintenance.

October - The AGFD holds an internal statewide wildlife water development coordination meeting where they review and prioritize all wildlife water developments requiring construction or reconstruction, with a cost in excess of \$2000.

November - AGFD transmits a list to the BLM State Office of those wildlife water developments on public lands, in priority order by Field Office, which they want to maintain/reconstruct. Each project on the list would also contain a detailed account of what needs to occur at the project site to assist BLM in determining how long it will take to get NEPA documentation completed. The attached (Attachment 1) is a suggested list of information that should be included. Between receipt of the list of proposed projects by the Field Office and the February AGFD Regional/Field Office coordination meetings, an assessment, including site visits and interdisciplinary review, is undertaken by the BLM to determine how long it will take to have the proposed project(s) ready for implementation.

February - At the annual AGFD Regional/Field Office coordination meetings, the BLM and AGFD review the list and feedback is given to AGFD regarding how long it will take BLM to get the NEPA documentation ready for the highest priority projects. Based on this feedback, decisions may be made to contract some NEPA work, drop projects from the list, rearrange priorities, etc. This would result in a regional schedule, by year, of when the projects are likely to be ready for implementation and who is responsible to complete the upfront work. At the same meeting, the previous year's list is reviewed to check for progress, identify projects ready for implementation, remove projects completed and insert the newest proposed projects.

The updated yearly list will give each Field Office time to submit projects ready to be implemented in the following fiscal year into the BLM budget system for cost share or other funding, and to make allocations of staff time. Those projects planned for completion in the following fiscal year (2 years out) can be inserted into the budget process during the out year exercise to show our needs (what is now done at the theme stage).

June 1 – Field Offices are required to submit the finalized list to AZ932 using the format in the attached timetable (Attachment 2). AZ932 will combine the lists into one statewide list and submit it to the AGFD by June 15, 2005.

Time frame: This schedule will be repeated annually and is ongoing. Adherence to this schedule will result in a more transparent process of setting of priorities, assigning responsibility and developing schedules to get wildlife water catchment work accomplished.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: Manual Sections 6500 and 6700 are affected.

Contact: Additional information or inquiries regarding this policy can be obtained by contacting Bill Grossi at 602-417-9241.

SIGNED BY:
Michael A. Taylor

AUTHENTICATED BY:
Susan Williams
Staff Assistant

2 Attachments:

- 1- [Water Catchment Information Needed for BPS and NEPA](#) (1 p)
- 2- [Proposed Wildlife Water Projects and NEPA Timetable](#) (1 p)